

REMARKS

Claims 12-16 are allowed.

Claims 9-11, 17 and 18 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the informality raised by the examiner. Applicants' respectfully submit that claim 9 as amended addresses the examiner's concerns. Claims 10-11, 17 and 18 depend from claim 9.

The examiner objected to the specification, indicating that paragraph 19 of the specification describes the bolt receiving recess 54 as "similar to the bolt receiving recess 24 of the prior art shaft 20" The examiner then indicates that Figs. 1 and 2 show the bolt receiving recess 24 as a notch and therefore concludes that the language in paragraph 19 is inconsistent with the amended drawings showing the bolt receiving notch 54 as a circumferential recess. Applicants' respectfully submit that the examiner has overlooked the specification describing Figs. 1 and 2. Paragraph 0003 explains that "the shaft 20 has a notch, annular groove or other form of bolt receiving recess 24" (emphasis added). It is clear that although bolt receiving recess 24 is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 as a notch, it can also be an annular groove or other form of bolt receiving recess. As such, it is consistent that bolt receiving notch 54 can also be a notch, annular groove or other form of bolt receiving recess. The amended drawings are consistent with the written description.

The examiner objected to the drawings and claim 17, indicating that new figures 8-13 do not show the bolt receiving recess as a notch. Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's objection. Original figures 3-7 show the bolt receiving recess as a notch and new figures 8-13 submitted with the October 19, 2003 Response show the bolt receiving recess as an annular groove. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

The examiner also objected to claim 9 as containing informal, subjective language. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 as amended addresses the examiner's concern.

The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, indicating that the term "upper hemisphere" makes the claims indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as amended addresses the examiner's concern.

It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 and 7-18 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner get in contact with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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